(b) It is understood leaders of the armed forces of the two countries keep in touch with one aonther. It is expected that such consultations lead to friendship and cooperation in mutually agreed areas.

(c) Government keep under constant review all developments which have a bearing on the country's security.

Communal violence in Meerut and Delhi

*39. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of persons and also loss of public and private property following the recent communal violence in Meerut, Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) what, according to the inquiry, if any, made by Government are the main causes for the eruption of communal violence in Meerut, Delhi and at other places; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check the frequent eruption of communal violence in the country resulting in heavy loss of life and weakening the country's economy besides disrupting communal harmony among the various communities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) As per available information, a total of 167 persons died and property worth Rs. 345.92 lakhs (approx.) was destroyed in the recent communal violence in Merrut, Delhi and in other major incidents of communal violence in the country in the year, 1987.

(b) The communal incidents/riots are the handiwork of anti-social and communal elements. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has appointed a 3-Member Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Gyan Prakash, former Comptroller and Auditor General of India to look into various aspects of the recent Meerut riots and to suggest ways and means for preventing such communal violence in future. A Judicial inquiry has also been ordered in the incidents in Maliana.

(c) Even though the primary responsibility of maintenance of peace rests with the State Governments, the Central Government have never been found wanting in the matter of providing assistance to the State Governments in the shape of para-military forces and equipment in restoring peace and communal harmony. The Central Government have also been cautioning and alerting the State Governments to keep a very close watch on communal, fundamentalist and anti-social elements. Shri Chidambaram alongwith Smt. Mohsina Kidwai and later the Home Minister and the Prime Minister visited the riot affected areas of Meerut and held detailed discussions with the Chief Minister and other senior officials in Meerut, and gave instructions for speedy relief and rehabilitation measures. Similarly, Shri Chidambaram visited Gujarat and held detailed discussions with the State authorities with a view to maintaining peace and providing speedy relief measures to the victims of the communal riots. The Home Minister had also invited the leaders of Opposition so as to take benefit of their advice and all present in the meeting agreed to issue an unanimous appeal for maintaining communal harmony during the celebration of Id.

2. It may also not be out of place to mention that as back as October, 1980, detailed guidelines were first circulated to the various State Government/UTs for maintaining communal harmony and public order. Thereafter in 1985, these guidelines were given a fresh look and were revised and re-circulated to all the State Governments/UTs in July, 1985.

Among other things these guidelines envisage strengthening of intelligence gathering system, action under law against those indulging in inflammatory writings, need for regulating the procedure for allowing religious processions on the occasion of major festivals to ensure that there is no provocation or other cause for communal violence; the need to regulate emergence of unauthorised places of worship on public places etc.; the need to deal effectively with the use of loud-speakers in places of worship and the need for speedy investigation of cases registered in connection with the communal violence through Special Courts/Earmarked Courts. The Home Minister in particular addressed all the State Governments/UTs in October, 1986 emphasising direct responsibility of the district, civil and police officials in maintaining communal harmony. Again on 30th December, 1986, the State Governments/UTs were issued instructions on how to control and regulate religious processions.

Anglo-Chinese Agreement on Hongkong's Future

*40. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is India's policy in regard to the Anglo-Chinese Agreement on Hongkong's future;

(b) whether Hongkong citizens of Indian origin have made any approach to India regarding their future after the colony relapses to China in 1999; and

(c) what would India's attitude be in safeguarding the interests of the Hongkong citizens and whether they would be received back in India if they wish to settle here?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government welcomes agreements which make for peace and stability.

(b) and (c) Of the approximately 20,000 people of Indian origin in Hong Kong, approximately 15,000 are Indian passport holders.

In addition there are approximately 4,500 British Dependent Territory citizens (BDTC's) of Indian origin in Hong Kong. These BDTC's of Indian origin have expressed the fear that under the provisions of the Sino-British agreement they may be rendered stateless when China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong. The Government of India believe that this category of persons is the responsibility of the British Government who should ensure that they are not rendered stateless.

Concessions given to the Textile Industry

157. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to find out whether the concessions given to the textile industry have been used for the benefit of the consumer and for the healthy growth of the industry; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की मिलों को हुई हानि

158. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शाद बेग :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की मिलों को अब तक कितना घाटा हुआ है । इसके प्रमुख कारण क्या हैं और इन घाटों को दूर करने के लिये क्या उपाय किये गए हैं ;